

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S909–S994

Measures Introduced: Twenty-five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 272–296, and S. Res. 36–37. **Pages S978–79**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 36, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants. **Page S978**

Class Action Fairness Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 3 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2005, Senate begin consideration of S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and be limited to debate only; further, that during the consideration of the bill, amendments be limited to those which are related to the subject matter of the bill. **Page S994**

Appointments:

Policy Committee to the White House Conference on Aging: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, after consultation with the members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Aging, pursuant to Public Law 100–175, as amended by Public Laws 102–375, 103–171, and 106–501, appointed the following individual as a member of the Policy Committee to the White House Conference on Aging: Thomas E. Gallagher of Nevada, vice Senator Reid. **Page S994**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 60 yeas 36 nays (Vote No. Ex. 3), Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General.

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Executive Communications: **Pages S975–78**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S979–80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S980–92**

Additional Statements: **Pages S974–75**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S992–93**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—3) **Page S960**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 6:07 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, February 7, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of Majority Leader in today's Record on page S994.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BSE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the effects of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) on United States imports and exports of cattle and beef, focusing on the minimal-risk rule, the role of science in determining risk, and opening the Japanese market, after receiving testimony from Michael Johanns, Secretary, Keith Collins, Chief Economist, and Ron DeHaven, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, all of the Department of Agriculture.

FBI TRILOGY PROJECT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related

Agencies held a hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Trilogy Information Technology Modernization Program, designed to upgrade the FBI's IT infrastructure and replace its case management system with the Virtual Case File (VCF), receiving testimony from Robert S. Mueller III, Director, and Zalmai Azmi, Chief Information Officer, both of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES

Committee on Armed Services: On Wednesday, February 2, Committee received a closed briefing regarding training of Iraqi security forces from Lieutenant General Walter L. Sharp, USA, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, The Joint Staff; Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; and Robert B. Charles, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States military operations and stabilization activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Paul D. Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense; General Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Ronald L. Schlicher, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Coordinator for Iraq, and Maureen Quinn, former Ambassador, Coordinator on Afghanistan.

U.S. ENERGY OUTLOOK

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine global energy trends and their potential impact on U.S. energy needs, security and policy, focusing on the 2005 annual energy outlook, perspectives on emerging world energy trends, including key factors affecting energy supply (such as OPEC and Russia) and energy demand (such as Asia), after receiving testimony from Guy F. Caruso, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Jeffrey Logan, International Energy Agency, Paris, France; and Andrew J. Slaughter, Shell Oil Company, and Frank A. Verrastro, Center for Strategic and International Studies, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original resolution (S. Res. 36) authorizing expenditures by the Committee; and S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants.

SURVIVORS BENEFITS

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine benefits for survivors of those killed in the line of duty, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits; Mark L. Ward, Senior Policy Advisor, Casualty, Mortuary and Funeral Affairs Honors, and Thomas R. Tower, Assistant Director of Compensation, both of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense; Frederick G. Streckewald, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for Program Policy; Bonnie Carroll, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Washington, D.C.; Edith G. Smith, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; Kathleen B. Moakler, National Military Family Association, Alexandria, Virginia; Tiffany Petty, Inkom, Idaho; and Jennifer McCollum, Orange Park, Florida.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current and future social security issues, focusing on possible changes to the Social Security system and implications for the program and the federal budget relating to the economy, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office; David M. Walker, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office; David C. John, The Heritage Foundation; Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, and John Rother, American Association of Retired Persons, both of Washington, D.C.; and Robert L. Bixby, The Concord Coalition, Arlington, Virginia.